

Amos Lodge No. 136 of Scranton. Attorney Bishop will be presented with the award at a dinner on May 18, 2003.

Attorney Bishop, a Hazleton native, is a graduate of Penn State University and Temple University School of Law, where he received his juris doctorate in 1971. He was a major in military intelligence in the Army Reserves, where he served from 1971 to 1986.

Attorney Bishop is now a partner in the prominent Northeastern Pennsylvania law firm of Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, P.C., where his emphasis and expertise is in the areas of commercial law, real estate and estate planning. He is a member of the Pennsylvania, American and Lackawanna Bar Associations, a member of the Exceptional Children Lawyer Referral Network of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and a mediator in the Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyers Dispute Resolution Program.

Throughout his professional career, he has served as an officer and a director of many charitable, civic and religious organizations. Over the past three decades, he has served as president of a variety of community organizations including Temple Israel of Scranton, Jewish Family Services of Lackawanna County, the Scranton Counseling Center, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, the Eastern Pennsylvania Council of B'nai B'rith, the Eastern Pennsylvania Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Amos Lodge No. 136 of B'nai B'rith.

He currently serves as president of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and president of Glen Oak Country Club. He also now serves as vice president of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Lackawanna County and the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the boards of directors of no less than eight additional organizations.

In recognition of his service to the community, Attorney Bishop has received the Jewish Community Center Man of the Year Award in 1996 and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Scranton Counseling Center in 1997.

Attorney Bishop and his wife Faye reside in Scranton and have three children, David, Stefanie, and Craig.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Attorney Richard S. Bishop on receiving the Americanism Award from B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136, and I extend my best wishes to him and his family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARON RALSTON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor to stand before this body today and honor a remarkably courageous young man from my district. Many of you have already heard of Aron Ralston and marveled at his story—one that has captured this nation's attention.

Aron went canyoneering in a remote part of Utah recently, and while scrambling up the side of a canyon wall, the unthinkable happened. A 1,000 pound boulder shifted and pinned his arm to the rock face. Aron tried

every plausible means of escape, but nothing worked. He had only intended to be gone for one day, and by the third day, he had exhausted his supply of water. Eventually Aron realized that help probably wouldn't come soon, which led him to do something most people probably could not have done. On the fifth day of his ordeal, Aron amputated his own arm in order to save his life.

Once free, Aron set up anchors and amazingly rappelled about 70 feet with one arm. Then, even though he was bleeding, famished and dehydrated, he hiked some five miles out of the canyon to find help. Once news of his story got out, much of the world marveled at Aron's resourcefulness and will to live.

Mr. Speaker, Aron is an experienced adventurer with a long list of impressive athletic achievements. He has climbed all of Colorado's 14-thousand foot peaks and ascended 45 of the 57 alone in winter. We honor him today, though, not for conquering another mountain, but for overcoming an even greater challenge. Aron's amazing bravery in the face of adversity has made us all proud. He is not just an outstanding athlete—he is an inspiration. I wish him a quick recovery and all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING REVEREND PHILLIP C. LAWSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor a great religious, spiritual, and civic leader, Reverend Phil Lawson, for his magnificent ministry. In June 2003, Rev. Lawson will retire as Pastor of Easter Hill United Methodist Church in Richmond, California. Today we honor and celebrate this giant of a human being.

The Rev. Phil Lawson came to Easter Hill in June 1992, from First United Methodist Church in Vallejo, California, where he served as pastor for six years following a six-year pastorate at El Cerrito United Methodist Church. Before coming to California, Rev. Lawson was pastor and Executive Director of the Methodist Inner City Parish in Kansas City, Missouri.

Along with his pastoral duties, he has worked with the Vallejo School District, Vallejo City government, Vallejo ministers and congregations to develop a community feeding program. Phil received special commendations from the Vallejo School Board and City Council, for his creativity and energy in serving the community.

Rev. Phil Lawson is the son of a Methodist minister, and the brother of Rev. J.M. Lawson, former pastor of Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where he received a Master of Divinity degree in 1968. From 1971 to 1973, Phil was selected as a Martin Luther King Fellow in Black Church studies, by Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. As a MLK Fellow, he studied in Nigeria, Ghana, and Atlanta, Georgia.

From an early age, Rev. Lawson has had a passion for justice and peace, nurtured in high school in Massillon, Ohio, when several drug

stores were desegregated through nonviolent direct action in 1950. At the age of 16, following high school graduation, Rev. Lawson joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and met with youth from across America in Washington, DC, where they experimented in non-violent direct action to integrate movies, swimming pools and drug stores in the Nation's capital.

Rev. Lawson's Ministry for Justice reached nationwide attention in the United Methodist Church in the 60's and 70's when his ministry led him into close relationship with the Kansas City, Missouri, Black Panther Party. Additionally, his passion for peace led him to travel to the former Soviet Union and North Viet Nam in 1970. Consequently, the Internal Security Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives began its investigation of the Black Panthers by subpoenaing Rev. Lawson in 1970, and the Missouri West Annual Conference convened a special session to "deal with Phil Lawson," also in 1970. Both events generated national support for Rev. Lawson and his ministries. He has consistently spoken "truth to power."

Rev. Lawson is very active in ecumenical activities as President for the Northern California Inter-Religious Conference and its Peace with Justice Commission, and the Inter-Faith Witness for Peace. In the California-Nevada Annual Conference, he has served for 8 years as Chairperson of the Board of Church and Society, and on the conference Council of Ministries. The world has benefited from his spirit-filled leadership.

Finally, as we honor Reverend Lawson today, we want to thank him for being an exemplary role model, pastor, and preacher. He has been a friend who has shared his wisdom and has given us tremendous support. Most of all, we thank Pastor Lawson for his indomitable spirit and for his prayers.

We take great pride in joining Reverend Lawson's wife JoAnn, daughters Kelly and JoyceRenee, grandson Kelle, friends and colleagues to salute the extraordinary Phillip C. Lawson as he retires as Pastor of Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GILBERT SANCHEZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Gilbert Sanchez of Pueblo, Colorado, and his contributions to the field of mental health. Gilbert has long dedicated his life to serving mentally ill children throughout my state, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his hard work and dedication before this body of Congress.

For over twenty years Gilbert served as President of the Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center in Pueblo, Colorado. He has also served with many state, local and national mental health advocacy organizations, including the Child Advocacy Center, the Colorado Association of Community Mental Health Centers and Clinics, and the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations. Gilbert is dedicated to serving his